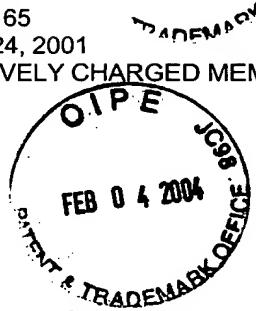


FEB. 04 2004

In re Application of: HOU et al.
 Application No. 09/914,165
 Filed: August 24, 2001
 For: NEGATIVELY CHARGED MEMBRANE

Mail Stop
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Sir:

Small entity status is claimed for this application under 37 CFR 1.27.

Petition for an extension of time for the period noted below, as well as for any additional period necessary to render the present submission timely. Please charge Deposit Account No. 12-1216 for the appropriate petition fee.

Other:

Please charge Deposit Account No. 12-1216 in the total amount indicated below. A duplicate copy of this transmittal sheet is enclosed herewith.

					SMALL ENTITY	OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY		
TIME EXTENSION PETITION FEE			two-month		\$ 0.00	\$420.00		
	subtract time extension fee previously paid		none		(\$ 0.00)	(\$ 0.00)		
CLAIM FEE	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDT. CLAIM FEE	RATE	
TOTAL	39	MINUS	48	=0	x 9=	\$	x 18=	\$
INDEPENDENT	3	MINUS	5	=0	x 43=	\$	x 86=	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE CLAIM					+ 145=	\$	+ 290=	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE CHARGED TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT					TOTAL	\$	TOTAL	\$420.00

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-1216.

Any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for the presentation of extra claims.

Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy M. Jay, Reg. No. 33,387
 LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER

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 Washington, DC 20005-3960
 (202) 737-6770 (telephone)
 (202) 737-6776 (facsimile)

Date: 4 Feb. 2004



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 440508

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HOU et al.

Art Unit: 1832

Application No. 09/914,165

Examiner: Sun U. Kim

Filed: August 24, 2001

For: NEGATIVELY CHARGED
MEMBRANE

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action mailed September 25, 2003, Applicants petition for a two month extension of time, extending the date for response to and including February 25, 2004, submit the requisite fee therefor, and request that the following remarks be considered and the referenced application be amended as shown below.

02/09/2004 TBESHAW1 00000030 121216 09914165

01 FC:1252 420.00 DA